COMMENTS ON COLLEGES.

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THE EVANGELIST ON COLLEGE REFINEMENT—MR. BEECHER'S CREED—THE INDEPENDENT CATHOLIC CHURCH.

From the Christian Union.

Your boy is fourteen years old. You are considering the question whether you shall take him out of school and put him to business. In the shop he can earn his living at once. In school he costs you from $300 to $800 a year. Even if he goes to a public school his board costs something and he earns nothing. And what is the use of Latin, Greek and algebra for the practical affairs of life? Will his *musa, musae, musae*, and his *x, y* and *z* ever enable him to sell more calicoes or at more cents a yard, or to get more bushels of wheat out of an acre of ground, or even to convince a jury of practical Americans that his client is entitled to $1000 damages from the railroad company that smashed his trunk or by its delay compelled him to miss an important appointment? He can read, write and speak the English language correctly; why not apprentice him to his trade and let him begin? Shall I keep him in school or put him to business? That is a question a great many fathers are considering this summer—and every summer.

Keep him in school.

He that apprentices his boy chooses his career for him and no man knows enough about either his boy's nature or his future to make such a choice wisely. Some men have to make it that is their misfortune, it might not to be your choice. If he is put into a store it is very unlikely he will ever become a lawyer; if into a lawyer's office it is hardly probable that he will emerge a civil engineer. By putting him into business you decide what business he shall go into. But you can no more tell what your boy at fourteen ought to be at forty than you can tell what an unlabelled paper of seeds will become if planted. It is a mere bundle of possibilities. What life has for him you cannot foresee. Who would have guessed of that the canal boy of forty-odd years ago needed to be educated to be Senator and perhaps President of the United States? Who would have foretold that the young Irish actor of less than half a century ago was to be the greatest actor and wholesale merchant of the world? Who can tell what Providence has in store for your boy? What he needs for his highest measure of success is an education that he may be able to do whatever his hand find to do—and to do it well. He needs to have insight in him with a trained faculty. Education does not merely fit a man for a place; it shows him what station they are fitted for. It designates him for everything above. Education of a man is a revelation of the soul; it shows what possibilities there are in him.

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It is the broad man who prospers in "hard times." The man who has but one spring on his place may go thirsty in a drought; not so the man who has a score. When times are dull it is the book-keeper who keeps a ledger account beautifully and knows not how to do anything else who gets left out in the cold, because there are no more ledgers to be kept. The versatile man, who has an adaptability to do whatever work comes to his hand always finds some work to do. When a college graduate is found starving the story goes the circle of the newspapers from Boston to San Francisco, but when clerks and book-keepers go hungry no one thinks it strange. It is an appalling problem to contemplate what will the thousand and odd graduates of our colleges this year find to do? But somehow, they all do find something. Our colleges do not furnish the country with its beggars, its paupers or its tramps. A well-educated man is a man of many resources, and he is therefore ready for many exigencies. There is safety in breadth.

It is the broad man, also, who generally finds "room at the top." Education does not impart genius, genius sometimes serves in lieu of education, but, as a rule, it is the well educated men who are top men. The man who is master of any craft. The machanic who knows how to drive a nail but not how to solder a joint may be a good carpenter, but he will never be an architect or a builder. All professions require for the best and highest success an encyclopedic knowledge. It is conceded that ministers, lawyers and doctors should have a liberal education, but why is it as well merchants, mechanics, and farmers? The successful mechanic ought to know the science of forces—physics, chemistry, natural philosophy—or he will be building a Chinese wooden wall to tumble down on the heads of the dancers, to his amazement and other people's indignation. We hope that the day is not far distant when our colleges will send some of their men into the building business, and we can have plumbing and carpentering bossed by brains. The farmer ought to be a chemist, knowing the constituents of both soils and plants, and a physiologist, knowing the organism of animals and the laws of their health and the nature of their diseases; and a merchant, knowing the needs of a changing market and how to manufacture for it. For the highest success every vocation requires every knowledge, no true learning comes amiss. The man who knows how to do only a single thing can never be master of any art for he can never direct many men how to do many things.

From the Evangelist.

Another thing which strikes us is the marked increase of that unconscious culture which is attained somehow to a greater or less extent at the best colleges. There is something in the associations, the spirit, the habits, the general life, the atmosphere of really great and good colleges which impressible students imperceptibly absorb, and are colored and affected by. A certain indescribable something—a manner, a way of looking at things, a method of thinking, a quality of disposition, a sort of moral effluence and aroma—gets unconsciously into the student's head and heart. Perhaps this subtle, pervasive something which cannot be described, and does not apppear on examination, is quite the best part of a college training. Certainly in selecting a college, one of the very first things to inquire about is not the standard of classical proficiency nor the severity of the discipline, but the sort of influences that pervade and circulate about it. Do its invisible elements make for refinement and nobility and virtue? It is not the quantity of mathematics taught, but *the kind of man the college gives back to the world*, that determines its character. It is also notable that the physical appearance of the graduates at most of our Eastern colleges has improved within twenty years. The victims to the rowing craze hardly count. But the passion for athletic exercises on the part of a few has had the effect of stimulating the many to take better care of their health, and created a fashion which shows its results in a manlier carriage and a more robust physique.

The authorized and verbatim reports of the Rev. Mr. Beecher's sermons, give this week his sermon of last Sunday morning. It states the grounds on which he stands as to religious belief and the salient points of his creed. We re-print the introduction, in which he announces the purpose of this sermon, believing that there may be many who will be interested to procure the paper:

There has recently been a proclamation that I have made a "new departure," that I have abandoned the ground on which my father stood, and have forsaken evangelical truth and taken up liberal and infidel positions. This had been spread abroad by the press very widely. To those who sit under my ministrations I need say nothing as against the more bitter and stupid stories of men who are fit for anything better than to sit in judgment upon doctrinal truth; but to even those best acquainted with my preaching and yet more to those who only read my sermons, and to the great Christian brotherhood to which I am proud to belong, it may be wise and a duty, to state with definiteness and such amplitude as time will allow on what ground I do stand and what are the salient points of my religious belief. I shall briefly touch the following topics. The inspiration of the Bible, the sinfulness of man, conversion, the Trinity, the doctrine of faith, the Saviour and the Holy Spirit, the atonement, retribution. Of the question of the church and ordinance I shall not have time to speak, but these are topics of secondary importance. Of course this must be done briefly, so wide is the subject. Yet I shall endeavor to do it explicitly.

The following is from the Evangelist:

The neat and commodious edifice which Fathers O'Connor and McNamara, the Reformed Catholic priests, have rented, and hope ultimately to purchase, on Madison avenue, corner of Twenty-Eighth street, lately occupied by Rev. Dr. C. C. Tiffany and the congregation of the Episcopal Church of the Atonement, will continue open all Summer. Three services are held every Sunday, and prayer meetings every Tuesday and Thursday evening. Rev. Philip Schaff, D. D., the learned author of "The Creeds of Christendom," and Professor of Sacred History in the Union Theological Seminary, preached in this church at a union service of priests and ministers, and before a crowded audience, on Sunday, June 20. Rev. Dr. Tefft a former president of Genesee College, now Syracuse University, preached last Sunday. Distinguished ministers of the various denominations will follow these gentlemen every Sunday evening. The interest in this Reformed Catholic movement continues to increase, and all Christian people heartily pray for its success.

PHILADELPHIA'S TEXTILE INDUSTRIES.

Mr. Lorin Blodgett, who has in charge the census of the textile industries of Philadelphia, finds 160 cotton mills or groups of mills in the city, and about 200 hosiery and carpet manufactures running steam power. In a recent statement concerning this branch of industry Mr. Blodgett said:

"It is well known that Philadelphia is the greatest manufacturing center of the world, but it is not so generally known that the textile manufacturers contribute more than any other class to this marked distinction of our city. The census now being taken will show that the value of the products for the present year of the various manufactories of our city will reach the grand total of $600,000,000. To this the textile manufacturers will contribute. In woolens and cottons of the general table, $48,500,000 in carpets, $23,000,000; in hosiery and knit goods $33,000,000; in worsted yarns, $12,500,000; in silk and mixed goods, $7,000,000—an aggregate of $115,000,000—over one sixth of the whole an amount of which they may justly feel proud, not only on account of the position which it aids in giving to our city, but also because of the means of subsistence which it affords to so many of its people. The outlying districts, of which Philadelphia is the business center, will add $38,000,000 to this, making for Philadelphia and vacinity $153,000,000."

A NEW SKATING ICE.

A new skating surface, called "crystal ice," has been invented by Dr. Calantarients, of Scarborough, England. Considering that after all ice is merely a crystalline substance, and that there is no lack of substances that are crystaline at ordinary temperature, Dr. Calantarients experimented with a variety or salts, and after a time succeeded in making a mixture consisting mainly of carbonate and sulphate of soda, which, when laid as a floor by his plan, can be skated on with ordinary ice skates, the resistance of the surface is just equal to that of ice, it looks like ice, and indeed when it has been skated on, and got "cut up" a little, the deception is quite astonishing; a small experimental floor has been laid in the skating ring at Prince's, and has proved so successful that no doubt a large floor will be laid there or at some other convenient place in autumn. This floor will obviously have great advantages, both over artificial ice floors, which are very expensive indeed, and over floors, for roller skating. The surface can at any time be smooth again by steaming with an apparatus for the purpose, and the floor itself, when once laid, will last for many years. The mixture of salts used contains about 60 per cent of water of crystallization, so that after all the floor consists chiefly of solidified water.

Small-pox is increasing so rapidly in Paris that it is proposed to make vaccination compulsory. While 858 persons died of this disease in that city last year, not less than 1,080 died of it in the first four months of the present year.

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